

Message Text

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21-12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01

CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /160 W

----- 048487

R 180800Z NOV 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 643

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

MEMBASSY TEL AVIV 27

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 619

DEPT PASS CAIRO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, XF

SUBJECT: IRAQ'S POLICY TOWARD SETTLEMENT

REF: BAGHDAD 611

1. SUMMARY: RECENT EVENTS ILLUSTRATE AMBIVALENCE WITH WHICH
REGIME STILL APPROACHING POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT. DESPITE PROMISE
IT HAS NOT REJOINED ARAB FRONT. OFFICIAL STATEMENTS LIMITED, BUT
MEDIA CONTINUING PREACH HARD LINE. USSR ABSOLVED AND "DEFEATIST"
WAR STRATEGY BLAMED SOLEY ON ARAB REGIMES. IDEA THAT U.S. CAN BE
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HONEST BROKER IS RIDICULED. ONE HOPEFUL SIGN IS EXTENT OF

COVERAGE BEING GIVEN DIRECT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI CONTACTS. END SUMMARY.

2. DESPITE EGYPTIAN CHARGE'S ASSERTIONS THAT GOI AGREED TO MAINTAIN SOLIDARITY AND RETURN TROOPS TO SYRIA (BAGHDAD 600), FRENCH AMBASSADOR TOLD ME NOV 16 THAT HIS INFO WAS ALL TROOPS WITHDRAWN AND NO NEW UNITS HAVE RETURNED TO SYRIA.

3. REGIME HAS NOT ANNOUNCED ACCEPTANCE OF SUMMIT BUT MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE FORMIN ABDUL BAQI WILL GO. NEITHER BAKR NOR SADDAM HUSSEIN YET PREPARED TO ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH SPECIFIC POLICY.

4. VERY STRONG ANTI-SETTLEMENT STATEMENT ISSUED NOV 13 BY BAQTH AND DPFLP WAS ONLY IN NAME BAATH NATIONAL LEADERSHIP, NOT MORE IMPORTANT RCC OR REGIONAL (IRAQI) BAATH LEADERSHIP. CLOSEST THING TO OFFICIAL LINE HAS BEEN SERIES OF EDITORIALS IN BAATH DAILY ATH-THAWRA WHICH ATTEMPTING JUSTIFY BAATH POSITION. MOST SIGNIFICANT POINTS APPEAR TO BE THAT EXPANSIONIST NATURE OF ISRAEL AND UNCOMPROMISING U.S. SUPPORT FOR IT WILL MAKE DURABLE PEACE IMPOSSIBLE; IT IS GREAT ILLUSION TO ACCEPT U.S. AS HONEST BROKER; ARABS NOW ENJOY INTERNATIONAL POSITION OF STRENGTH AND SHOULD SETTLE FOR NOTHING LESS THAN 1967 STATUS QUO ANTE; AND USSR GAVE ALL POSSIBLE SUPPORT TO ARABS AND DECISIONS ON GOING TO BATTLE AND CEASE-FIRE RESTED EXCLUSIVELY WITH ARABS. ATH-THAWRA ADMITS THAT IRAQ'S ALLIES DISAGREE THAT ARABS SHOULD SEEK MORE THAN JUNE 4, 1967 BOUNDARIES AND PROMISES DISCUSS THIS CARDINAL POINT IN FUTURE.

5. DESPITE HARD LINE, THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT REGIME HAS DECIDED TO BEGIN PREPARING PUBLIC OPINION FOR EVENTUAL SETTLEMENT. BOTH PAPERS AND TV ARE GIVING EXTENSIVE, FAIRLY OBJECTIVE COVERAGE TO EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DIRECT DEALINGS. ONUS IS, HOWEVER, VERY MUCH ON EGYPT. LOWRIE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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